

REMARKS

This is a Reply to the Office Action dated August 10, 2006. All of the claims were rejected. Claims 1, 6-14, 19-27 and 32-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by USPN 6,133,847 to Yang. Claims 4, 5, 17, 18, 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang.

Claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 25, 27, 38 and 40-44 have been amended to further clarify the claimed limitations. No new matter has been added. Rejection of the claims is respectfully traversed because for at least the following reasons, Yang does not disclose limitations of the rejected claims as amended.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for courtesies shown during the telephone interview of October 10, 2006. The following is a summary of the points discussed in the interview. Independent claims, and in particular Claim 1, were discussed in view of the cited reference Yang. Applicant argued that there is no disclosure in Yang of a case in which initially information is obtained from the devices to generate a user interface including references to the devices, and then in response to selection of a reference from the user interface, using the reference to access the associated device information in the selected device to display a control user interface using the accessed device information. In Yang, when a device is selected, the remote control 100 does not access the selected device for obtaining control interface of the

selected device. Agreement was not reached.

ARGUMENTS

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Rejection of Claims 1, 6-14, 19-27 and 32-44 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yang is respectfully traversed because, for the following reasons, Yang does not disclose all of the claimed limitations.

Yang is directed to a remote control device that is able to be programmed after initial manufacture to accommodate the control of additional apparatuses. The remote control device includes a multi-functional, interchangeable user interface where the interface is modified such that it is able to control the functions of a variety of different types of apparatuses. This is fundamentally different from the claimed invention.

As per Claim 1, Yang does not disclose obtaining device information from devices for generating a user interface based at least on the obtained information including one or more references to device information in one or more devices currently connected to the network, and in response to selection of a reference associated with a device, using the reference to access the device and access the information in the device and display a control interface using the accessed device information of the selected device for user interaction with the selected device, as claimed.

In response to Applicant's arguments, the Examiner basically states about Yang that: The system does obtain information from one or more devices currently connected to the network according to Yang's teaching at column 8, lines 10 -14, in which the remote control device could receive an interface control signal from each of the appliances on the network or in the room. And based on the obtained information, the system generates a top page user interface description including a separate icon for each appliance that is available to be controlled (col. 8, lines 14-17).

Applicant respectfully disagrees. In col. 8, lines 10-17, Yang states:

"In the network application described above, and for any application where multiple appliances to be controlled are located in the same room, the remote control device could receive an interface control signal for each of the appliances on the network or in the room. The software could provide for a separate icon to be displayed in message display window 142 for each appliance that is available to be controlled."

Yang does not disclose generating a user interface based on the obtained information from the devices. Rather, Yang states: "... the remote control device could receive an interface control signal for each of the appliances on the network or in the room. The software could provide for a separate icon to be displayed in message display window 142 for each appliance that is available to be controlled." Therefore, Yang does not disclose that the software provides a

separate icon for each appliance based on the information in an interface control signal received for each of the appliances.

Further, Yang displays appliance icons, but does not disclose that icons are references for direct access from display 142 to user interface information in the appliances. In Yang, an icon is not used to access device information in the corresponding device and then display a control interface including device data using the accessed device information of said device, as claimed.

Indeed, in col. 8, lines 19-24, Yang states:

“The selection of the icon would provide a control signal to the functions interface and the functions interface would then access the control software for that appliance from memory and configure the user interface function control panel so that it would be configured to control the appliance selected.”

Therefore, in Yang, the remote 100 accesses the memory 120 in the remote 100 itself, not the appliances. Accordingly, Yang does not disclose that when a reference to a device in a user interface is selected (i.e., selecting a device from a user interface), the reference is then used to access the device and access device information in the device to generate a control interface for user interaction with the selected device, as claimed.

Further, in col. 4, lines 32-38 (relied on by the Examiner) Yang states:

“In utilizing the embodiment of FIG. 2A for the user interface 140, VCR 200 would download programming software to remote control device 100 that would be utilized by the remote control device to control the functions of the VCR. The programming software is downloaded to remote control device 100 over data link 150. Data interface 110 would receive the downloaded programming software and store the software in memory 120.”

Yang does not disclose a user interface that includes one or more references to the device information contained in said devices currently connected to the network, as claimed. Yang does not disclose that selection of an icon on display 142 causes control functions to be downloaded from an appliance to the memory 120 of remote 100.

It is respectfully submitted that despite the Examiner's assertions, there is no disclosure in Yang of a case where the remote control 100 presents to the user a user interface with references for access to control programs contained in the appliances 150 themselves, wherein when the user selects a reference in the user interface, the remote control 100 accesses the corresponding appliance and accesses the corresponding control program from that appliance to generate a control interface, as claimed herein. Indeed Yang, teaches away from the claimed limitations (e.g., col. 8, lines 19-24, and 59-66).

Not only does Yang not disclose generating a user interface, in Yang there is no step of presenting to a user a user interface with one or more references to device information in the appliances themselves (and there is no need for such a feature in Yang). Yang (col. 2, lines 10-14, relied on by the Examiner) does not disclose obtaining device information from devices currently connected to the network, as required by Claim 1. In col. 2, lines 10-14, Yang simply states: "In the network application described above, and for any application where multiple appliances to be controlled are located in the same room, the remote control device could receive an interface control signal for each of the appliances on the network or in the room." The interface control signal in Yang is simply an appliance signal sent to the remote control which the remote control uses to retrieve the program code for that appliance from the remote control memory (Yang, col. 2, lines 27-30). This has nothing to do with obtaining device information from devices currently connected to the network.

Yang does not disclose that in response to selection of the reference, using the reference to access the device information in the corresponding device and display a control interface including device data using the accessed device information of said, as claimed. Even if based on the Examiner's interpretation (which Applicant traverses), Yang's remote control provides a user with icons representing appliances (col. 8, lines 14-19, relied on by the Examiner), such icons do not form a user interface including references that provide access to information contained in the appliances, wherein a selected reference is used to access device information contained in the corresponding appliance to generate a control interface for controlling the

appliance.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that rejection of Claim 1, and all claims dependent therefrom, should be withdrawn.

Claims 14, 27 and 41 were rejected for essentially the same reasons as Claim 1. As such, rejection of Claims 14, 27 and 41, and claims dependent therefrom, is respectfully traversed for at least the reasons provided in relation to Claim 1.

As per Claims 6, 19 and 32, as discussed, Yang (col. 8, lines 14-24) does not disclose generating and displaying a user interface including one or more references to one or more devices as claimed. Further, the device 100 is the remote control itself which is not a *client device* capable of displaying a user interface that is connected to the network, according to the claimed invention. For at least these reasons, rejection of Claims 6, 19 and 32 should be withdrawn.

As per Claims 7, 20 and 33, Yang (col. 8, lines 18-24) for at least the reasons discussed in relation to Claim 1 does not disclose that the device information in each device further includes a user control interface description for user interaction with the device, and upon detecting user selection of a device from the user interface, using the associated reference in accessing the control interface description in the device, and then displaying the control interface description in

the corresponding device for user command and control of the device, as claimed.

As per Claims 8, 21 and 34, Yang (col. 8, lines 14-24) does not disclose generating each user interface such that the reference in that user interface provides access to at least the information in each associated device, as claimed. For at least the reasons discussed in relation to Claim 1, there is no disclosure in Yang of a case in which initially information is obtained from the appliances to generate a user interface that includes one or more references to user interface information in one or more devices, as claimed. There is no disclosure in Yang of device information in an appliance 150 that the remote control 100 accesses upon icon selection.

As per Claims 9, 22 and 35, Yang (col. 8, lines 14-24) does not disclose generating each user interface such that the user interface further includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device, as claimed. As discussed, in col. 8, lines 14-24 (and elsewhere in Yang) there is no disclosure of obtaining information from each appliance, as claimed. Further, there is no mention in Yang of a reference including device data for access to control program in an appliance based on information obtained from the appliance. Indeed, Yang states that the functions interface accesses the control software for that appliance from the remote control memory, not from the appliance. Further, the interface control signal in Yang, col. 2, lines 27-30, is simply an appliance signal sent to the remote control which the remote control uses to retrieve the program code for that appliance from the remote control memory. The control signal is not a reference that provides direct access to the control program

in appliance, as claimed herein.

As per Claims 10, 23 and 36, Yang (col. 5, lines 41-56) does not disclose that the device information in each device includes device identification information, as claimed. Yang does not disclose that the TV 220 includes device information, and that device information includes device identification information. Yang simply mentions that the interface control signal contains information that uniquely identifies the particular appliance such that the appropriate control software can be retrieved from memory 120 in the remote controller 100 and utilized to configure user interface 140 to control that particular apparatus. However, Yang does not disclose the device information in each device includes device identification information; rather the control signal identifies the appliance, which is not based on device information in the appliance.

As per Claims 11, 24 and 37, Yang (col. 4, lines 6-14) does not disclose that the device information in each device includes a user control interface description for user interaction with the device, as claimed. Indeed, in col. 4, lines 6-14, Yang states: “Functions interface 130, in remote control 100, receives the interface control signal from data interface 110 that is transmitted from appliance 160. Functions interface 130 includes processor 135. Based on the particular interface control signal that is received from the particular apparatus, functions interface 130 will utilize that interface control signal to access the control software from memory 120 in order to configure user interface 140 to control that particular apparatus.” As such, the

remote control 100 retrieves the program code for that appliance from the remote control memory 120, and not from the appliance that sent a signal to the remote control 100. The appliances themselves do not include a user control interface description for user interaction with the appliance. Applicant believes that user interface description as claimed is not disclosed by Yang. Further, Applicant believes that Yang does not disclose that a user control interface description for each appliance is in the appliance itself for access when an icon is selected, as the Examiner seems to suggest.

As per Claims 12, 25 and 38, Yang (col. 8, lines 14-24) does not disclose generating each user interface such that each reference in that user interface is to at least the user control interface description in each corresponding device, and detecting user selection of a device from one of said user interfaces, and using a reference in the user interface of the selected device to access the control interface description in the device and then display the control interface description as a control user interface for user command and control of the device, as claimed. As discussed, there is no disclosure in Yang of a case in which initially information is obtained from the appliances to generate a user interface that includes one or more references to user interface information in the appliances, such that when a reference in the user interface is selected, the appliance user interface information in the corresponding appliance is accessed to generate a user interface for user interaction with the selected appliance, as claimed herein.

Accordingly, there is no disclosure in Yang of a case where the remote control 100 presents to the user an initial user interface with references for direct access to control programs contained in the appliances 150 themselves, wherein when the user selects an appliance reference in the user interface, the remote control 100 accesses the corresponding control program in the appliance, as claimed herein. There is no teaching in Yang (col. 8, lines 10-24) about the steps of detecting user selection of a reference in a user interface, using the reference to access information in the associated device and display a control interface therefrom, as claimed.

As per Claims 13, 26 and 39, for at least the reasons provided in relation to Claim 1, Yang (col. 4, lines 6-14; col. 8, lines 14-24) does not disclose generating each user interface wherein that user interface further includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device, the device data providing reference to the user control interface description in each device, as claimed. Further, as discussed in relation to Claim 11, in col. 4, lines 6-14, Yang states that the remote control 100 retrieves the program code for that appliance from the remote control memory 120, and not from the appliance that sent a signal to the remote control 100. The appliances themselves do not include a user control interface description for user interaction with the appliance.

As per Claims 40, 42, 43 and 44, for at least the reasons provided above, Yang (col. 8, lines 14-24; col. 6, lines 21-34) does not disclose accessing said selected device in response to the selection of the reference associated with the selected device, and accessing the device

information contained in the selected device; generating the control user interface including the device data corresponding to said selected device using the accessed device information; and displaying the control user interface on one or more devices connected to the network capable of displaying a user interface, as claimed.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a)

Rejection of Claims 4, 5, 17, 18, 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang is respectfully traversed because no prima facie case of obviousness has been established. Further, Yang and Hayes (U.S. App. Pub. 20030189509), alone or in combination, do not disclose the claimed limitations.

As discussed, Yang does not disclose all of the limitations of base claims from which Claims 4, 5, 17, 18, 30 and 31 depend. However, the Examiner attempts to modify Yang to reject the claims.

As per Claim 4, and 5, Yang does not disclose that the information in each device comprises an HTML page contained in that device. The Examiner relies on Hayes for HTML pages. The Examiner further contends that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include hyper-text links and HTML pages in Yang to control the appliances remotely from the Internet via HTTP protocol. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In par. [0022] of Hayes (relied on by the Examiner), the only mention of HTML is: “In this manner, the processor 24 may be programmed to control the various electronic components within the remote control 10, e.g., to monitor the power supply 38, to cause the transmission of signals, display icons and/or HTML pages, etc.” It is respectfully submitted that there is no teaching in Hayes par. [0022], or elsewhere, that information in each device comprises an HTML page contained in the device, as the Examiner suggests.

Yang and Hayes fail to disclose such limitations. Applicant further traverses any conclusion (under Official Notice or otherwise) of suggestion or motivation to modify Yang as suggested by the Examiner. There is no motivation or suggestion in Yang to modify it as the Examiner suggests. As discussed above, Yang does not disclose references (e.g., hyper-text links) to control programs in devices, as claimed. As such, there is no reason or motivation to include HTML pages in appliances for access (e.g., via hyper-text links). Further, there is no mention, motivation or suggestion about Internet or HTTP protocol or HTML pages, or suggestion to utilize such protocols in the remote control 100 or the appliances of Yang.

Even if the modification was legally justified, it still would not render Applicants’ claimed invention obvious. Yang does not disclose a user interface that includes references to appliances, wherein when the reference for a device is selected by the user, the selected reference is used to access control program information stored in the device to obtain the user interface for the selected device in HTML page form, for the user to control the device. As discussed, there is

no user interface in Yang with references for access to appliances, wherein when the reference is selected by the user, the reference is used to access the appliance and access the user interface (i.e., HTML page) for the appliance.

For at least the reasons discussed above, one of ordinary skill in the art would not look to Yang to achieve the solutions provided by the claimed invention. Further, one of ordinary skill in the art would not find any motivation or suggestion in Yang to modify it as the Examiner suggests. Yang does not obtain appliance control interfaces from the appliances, and need not utilize an HTML control page in each appliance as the control program of each appliance is in the memory of the remote controller. Even if Yang is modified as the Examiner suggests the result would be HTML control programs in memory 120 of the remote control 100, rather than HTML page control interface in each device, as claimed. This provides no advantage for the purpose of Yang. The remote controller 100 is dedicated to control the devices, and remote control via the HTTP is neither taught nor possible. Yang is simply not concerned with, nor is appropriate for, the Examiner's proposed modification to allow Yang's appliances to interface the remote control 100 with HTTP protocol or the Internet. Indeed, Yang teaches away from the claimed invention since Yang stores the appliance control programs in the memory 120 of the remote control 100, without the need for a HTTP or Internet protocol between the remote control 100 and the appliances.

As per Claim 5, as the Examiner also states, Yang does not disclose displaying the user interface on a browser on a device connected to the network, capable of displaying a user interface, as required by Claim 5. Further, for the reasons above, one of ordinary skill in the art would not look to the cited references, or to modify Yang as suggested by the Examiner to achieve the claimed invention herein. As such, rejection of Claim 5 should be withdrawn.

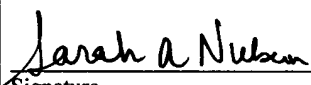
Claims 17 and 30 were rejected for the same reasons as Claim 4, and should therefore be allowed for at least the reasons provided in relation to Claims 4 and 5.

Claims 18 and 31 were rejected for the same reasons as Claim 5, and should therefore be allowed for at least the reasons provided in relation to Claims 4 and 5.

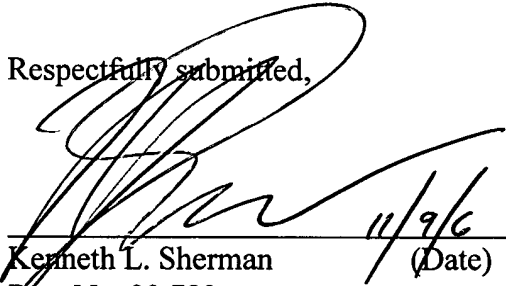
The Examiner admits that Yang does not teach all limitations in Claims 4, 5, 17, 18, 30 and 31. Therefore, the Patent Office attempts to modify Yang in order to teach Applicant's claimed invention. However, as discussed, there is no teaching in Yang and/or Hayes of the claimed limitations. The effort required to modify Yang as suggested by the Examiner would require a substantial undertaking and numerous elements which would not be obvious. The Examiner is improperly using "hindsight" and the teachings of Applicant's own claimed invention in order to modify Yang to render Applicant's claims obvious. For at least these reasons and the additional reasons provided below, rejection of Claims 4, 5, 17, 18, 30 and 31 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of the claims be withdrawn, and the claims be allowed for at least the aforementioned reasons. If it is believed that a telephone interview will help further the prosecution of this case, Applicants respectfully request that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the listed telephone number.

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Respectfully submitted,


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11/9/06
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